

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the text that begins on page 4 of the specification, line 27 and which ends on page 5, line 7 to read as set forth below.

Figure 1. Figure 1 contains the complete nucleotide sequence of a clone constructed by the methods described in the Examples section (SEQ ID NO:2). The clone was deposited with the International Depository Authority Deutsche Sammlung Von Mikroorganismen Und Zellkulturen GmbH at the address Mascheroder Weg 1 B, D-3300 Braunschweig, Germany. The deposit was made on May 14, 1999 and was given the accession number DSM 12808.

Figure 2. Figure 2 shows the deduced amino acid sequence of rat B1C3 (SEQ ID NO:1). The polynucleotide of Figure 1 codes for a protein 400 amino acids length.

Figure 3. Figure 3 shows a sequence comparison between B1C3 (SEQ ID NO:1) and sequences for mouse (SEQ ID NO:7) and rat (SEQ ID NO:8) EDG-1 receptors. B1C3 is about 34% homologous to the mouse EDG-1 receptor (SEQ ID NO:7) and about 33% homologous to the rat EDG-1 receptor (SEQ ID NO:8).

Please amend the paragraph on page 16 of the application lines 1-14 to read as follows:

Results: The complete nucleotide sequence of the B1C3 cDNA clone is shown in Figure 1. The open reading frame is comprised of 1203 nucleotides, encoding a protein of 401 amino acids (Figure 2) with a predicted molecular mass of about 42.3 kDa. The protein sequence contains hallmark features of GPCRs: the presence of seven hydrophobic helices likely to represent transmembrane domains; an amino terminus; and a carboxy terminus. In addition, several modification sites proposed to be involved in the regulation of receptor function are also present in the predicted amino acid sequence. Thus, the receptor sequence has: a potential cAMP phosphorylation site at position 236; N-linked glycosylation sites; myristilation sites; and Protein Kinase-C phosphorylation

sites. The nucleotide sequence and primary predicted amino acid sequence of the B1C3 receptor are not present in their entirety in the Genebank database. The sequences most closely resemble those of the mouse and rat EDG-1 receptor (epithelial differentiation gene receptor). A sequence alignment of B1C3 with known receptors reveals that it is about 34% identical to mouse EDG-1 (SEQ ID NO:7) and 33% identical to rat EDG-1 (SEQ ID NO:8) receptors (Figure 3).